



Goa Police Crack Baina Dacoity

■ Six Arrested Outside State, Major Recoveries Made.



Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: Goa Police have made a decisive breakthrough in the Baina dacoity case, arresting five suspects from outside the state. Director General of Police Alok Kumar confirmed the arrests on Tuesday, adding that officers have recovered a significant portion of the stolen property. The accused are now being

brought to Goa for further investigation, and sources indicate that most of them hail from Odisha. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the police are closing in on every member of the gang. "I had said we were on the right track. The breakthrough has now come," he stated, assuring that the remaining culprits will be apprehended soon. Police believe that a group

GP CRACK BAINA DACOITY..

- ▶ Six accused held outside state.
- ▶ Major recoveries in baina heist.
- ▶ Dgp confirms breakthrough in dacoity.
- ▶ Odisha gang linked to baina robbery
- ▶ Cm says police closing in on gang.
- ▶ Victim family seeks better security.

of 7-8 dacoits was behind the armed robbery. The horrifying incident took place in the early hours of November 18, when at least seven masked men stormed a sixth-floor flat in Chamundi Arcade, Baina, and attacked the Nayak family. The group escaped with cash, gold and silver items worth around ₹45 lakh. They were captured on CCTV entering and exiting

the complex within a span of 35 minutes—between 2:30 am and 3:05 am. Their youth, Hindi accents and the smell of mustard oil suggested they were from North India. During the assault, 60-year-old Sagar Nayak—a senior resident and chairman of Chamundi Arcade—sustained serious head injuries after being beaten

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Special court resumes bail hearing in Rama Kankonkar assault case

Team Goemkarponn

MERCES: The Special Court at Merces on Wednesday partially heard arguments on the bail application filed by Zenito Cardozo, the prime accused in the attempted murder of social activist



Rama Kankonkar, before adjourning the matter to social activist

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Goa Govt Holds Back Comments on Tiger Reserve Proposal as CM, Min Rane Await Full CEC Report

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has taken a cautious stand on the Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee's (CEC)



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Gala premiere

- Vaimanik (The Pilot)
- Pennum Parattum

Goan Films

- Meraki, By The Sea
- Zero Bulb

Open Air Screening

Miramar Beach

- Manjummel Boys @ 7 Pm

Vagator Beach

- Sonic the Hedgehog @ 7 Pm

Ravindra Bhavan (Margao)

- Aamar Boss @ 7 pm

Masterclass

The Complete VFX Production Magnanimity- A Masterclass by the VFX Wizard Pete Draper!

Interview Session

Costume and Character Arc: The Trendsetters of Cinema By Eka Lakhani

Round Table

Beyond the thumb - The Role of a Film Critic: A Gate Keeper, An Influencer or Something Else? By: Barbara Lorey de Lacharriere, Deepa Gahlot, Meghachandra Kongbam, Elizabeth Kerr, Bharadwaj Rangan, Sudhir Srinivasan

Indian Panorama

- Pokkhirajer Dim (F)
- That's A Wrap / Amrit Lal Nagar
- Oslo - A Tail Of Promise / Shangrila
- Chalo India With Eric Ji / Vanya
- Committee Kurrollu (F)
- White Snow (F)
- Patralekha / Imbu
- Untold Agony / White Snow
- Bhaimon Da (F)
- Gondhal (F)
- Binodiini Ekti Natir Upakhyan (F)

International Competition

- A Poet / Un Poeta
- Songs Of Adam
- Moi qui t'aimais
- Mothers Baby

Special Screening

- Shiva
- Ek Hota Vidushak
- Hum Tum Maktoob
- Kireedam

DAY 7

CINEMELA @ Kala Academy

- Happy Mother's Day @ 8:30 am
- Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway @ 10:00 / 10:15 / 10:30 am
- Shatranj Ke Khiladi @ 3:00 pm
- Mirch Masala @ 6:00 pm

For more information & Registration log on to www.esg.co.in and www.iffigoa.org
IFFI Helpline number 08326741717 (8.00 a.m. - 10.00 p.m.)

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Note: Delegates are required to enter the theatre before show start time to avoid reduction of their daily tickets quota.

A Scandal That Goa Cannot Ignore: PWD Must Face Full Public Scrutiny

The allegations surrounding Bagkiya Constructions and its dealings with Goa's Public Works Department have opened a troubling chapter in the state's governance narrative. Claims that forged completion certificates and manipulated records may have been used to secure government contracts are more than a contractor dispute. They strike at the heart of public accountability. If these accusations hold up under investigation, they reveal a system vulnerable to exploitation and even complicit in it. This is not merely about one company or one contract. It is about the credibility of an entire department that handles infrastructure essential to every Goan's daily life. Roads, bridges, drainage systems and public buildings rely on a chain of approvals that must be airtight. When forged documents allegedly slip through that chain, the public has every right to ask how it happened. Was it negligence? Was it deliberate? And who benefited?

The state cannot afford to gloss over these questions. Goa has seen enough controversies in its public works sector over the years, each one chipping away at public confidence. But this case stands out because it suggests a more sophisticated operation. Forged certificates do not simply appear out of thin air. They require planning, coordination and an assumption that they will not be scrutinised. That assumption should frighten every citizen.

A thorough and independent investigation is non-negotiable. Internal departmental probes will not suffice, nor will committees formed under political influence. What Goa needs is a professional, external inquiry that includes forensic document experts, auditors and engineers. Every certificate, every tender submission, every project approval must be rechecked against authentic records. The

"A thorough and independent investigation is non-negotiable. Internal departmental probes will not suffice, nor will committees formed under political influence. What Goa needs is a professional, external inquiry that includes forensic document experts, auditors and engineers. Every certificate, every tender submission, every project approval must be rechecked against authentic records."

The investigation must follow the trail wherever it leads. If lapses occurred at multiple levels of the PWD, each level must be held accountable. This is also the moment for the government to demonstrate true transparency. All contracts under scrutiny should be placed in the public domain."

investigation must follow the trail wherever it leads. If lapses occurred at multiple levels of the PWD, each level must be held accountable.

This is also the moment for the government to demonstrate true transparency. All contracts under scrutiny should be placed in the public domain. The people of Goa deserve to know how their tax money is used and whether they received the infrastructure they paid for. The days of opaque tendering and cosy contractor relationships must end. A state that prides itself on tourism and development cannot function with a public works system clouded by suspicion.

But accountability cannot stop with the contractor or

even the officials involved. The systemic weaknesses must be identified and corrected. Goa's procurement process still relies heavily on paperwork that can be manipulated. A modern public works ecosystem demands strong digital safeguards. Certificates must be verified against online databases maintained by issuing authorities. Tender submissions should be timestamped, encrypted and accessible only through secure platforms. Mandatory third-party audits at key project milestones can act as early warning systems.

The technical side of the problem is only one half of the story. The other half is ethical. Infrastructure is not an abstract idea. It shapes the daily lives of citizens. A poorly built road can cause accidents. A compromised bridge can take lives. Substandard construction work may not be immediately visible, but its consequences eventually emerge. When corruption infiltrates infrastructure, the cost is paid by everyone.

This alleged scandal must therefore be seen not just as a failure of administration but as a breach of public trust. People expect the government to protect public funds and uphold standards. The moment that trust breaks, governance itself weakens. Restoring it will require more than statements. It will require prosecutions if guilt is established, reforms even if the system is only partly flawed, and a firm political commitment to end contractor-politician nexuses that have long haunted Goa.

Goa is at a crossroads. The revelations demand a decisive response. Either the state reforms its public works system and emerges stronger, or it allows this controversy to fade like so many others, leaving citizens to pay the price again. Goa deserves better. It deserves honesty in its governance and reliability in its infrastructure. The path forward begins with the truth, and only a fearless investigation can reveal it.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tuem Hospital's Empty Halls Are a Shameful Waste of Public Money

It is deeply troubling that the 100-bed hospital building at Tuem, built to serve a population of around one lakh in Pernem taluka, remains unused several years after its construction. The structure was completed in 2021 but the facility has yet to be commissioned. Basic medical equipment has not been installed, staff have not been recruited and critical formal hand-over procedures linger unresolved. Meanwhile, local residents continue to travel to Bambolim or Peddem for even basic healthcare—a burden that could have been alleviated with a functioning hospital nearby.

What makes the matter worse is the inaction despite repeated assurances from officials. The delay not only wastes public funds, but prevents essential services from reaching people who desperately need them. A hospital empty, unequipped and locked is of no use to anyone. It becomes instead a monument to misplaced priorities and bureaucratic inertia. This is not merely an administrative oversight. Every day the hospital remains non-operative, there is a real human cost. Emergencies go untreated, chronic illnesses remain unmanaged, and ordinary citizens lose faith in a system that promised care and delivered only a building. The government must act immediately. Complete the pending equipment procurement. Hand over the facility to the health department without further delay. Recruit qualified staff. And begin full operations—not as a partial centre, but as the 100-bed hospital as originally promised and built. For the people of Pernem and nearby villages, this isn't about politics. It's about access to healthcare. And until this hospital becomes functional, they remain ignored.

-Narayan Sawant, Pirna

Why Is Goa Shying Away from Declaring a Tiger Reserve?

The recent developments around the proposed tiger reserve in Goa—including repeated delays and legal wrangling—raise troubling questions about the state government's genuine commitment to wildlife conservation. After decades of advocacy and clear recommendations from experts and central authorities, the hesitation persists. That hesitation needs public scrutiny. In many other states, spotting a few tigers or confirming their transit through forest corridors would be enough to trigger protective measures. Yet here, in Goa, officials argue that the absence of a large, resident tiger population justifies doing nothing. Even after a Supreme Court-appointed committee urged the government to notify a tiger reserve within three months, the response has been cautious, at best. The government's core arguments—limited space, high population density, potential displacement and logistical difficulties—raise a deeper concern: is development interest outweighing ecological and conservation imperatives? Goa's rich Western Ghats forest belt already serves as a crucial corridor between Karnataka and Maharashtra, vital for tiger movement, biodiversity and ecological balance. By refusing to grant full protection, the state risks turning this natural heritage into merely another commodity for mining, real estate or tourism. The law offers adequate safeguards under wildlife and forest protection statutes. A well-managed tiger reserve need not uproot communities or undermine human livelihoods. With careful zoning, buffer areas and participatory planning, both conservation and community rights can be protected. The delay appears less a matter of technical difficulty than of political will. If Goa fails to act now, it won't just be letting down wildlife—it will betray future generations. The stand-alone excuse of "lack of resident tigers" cannot wash away responsibility when the forest corridors, biodiversity, water resources and climate resilience of the Western Ghats stand at stake. Goa needs transparency. The public deserves to know who is blocking the process, why the state continues to resist wildlife experts' recommendations, and whether economic interests are taking precedence over ecological ones. It's time to break the silence, notify the tiger reserve and safeguard a fragile ecosystem before it is too late.

-Shanto Naik, Margao

550-Year Celebrations at Partagali Math to Draw Thousands of Devotees

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math, one of India's oldest Maths and a revered centre of spiritual and cultural heritage, is gearing up for its historic Sardha Panchashatamanotsava—the 550-year celebrations of the Math tradition. The grand event will be held from Margashirsha Shukla Saptami to Margashirsha Krishna Tritiya (November 27 – December 7, 2025) at Partagali Math, Goa. The 11-day celebrations will feature an array of spiritual, cultural, and



social programmes. To mark the significance of the occasion, a Sneha Patra has been ceremoniously presented to the Mathadhipathi of Shree Palmaru Math, Shreemad Vidyadheesha Teerth Swamiji, and Pattashishya Shreemad Vidya Varidhi Teerth Swamiji, as well as to Shree Saunshan Gaudapadacharya Kavale Mathadhish Shreemad

Shankarashram Swamiji, inviting the dignitaries to grace the celebrations. One of the highlights of the event is the unveiling of a 77-foot-tall bronze idol of Lord Rama, the tallest Rama idol in South India, crafted at Partagali. A Rama-themed park and a museum showcasing Lord Ram's influence across centuries will also be unveiled. The museum will display rare artefacts such

as postal stamps, postal covers, and coins from the Vijayanagara Empire. A major spiritual initiative, the Sardha Panchashatkat Shri Ram Nama Japa Abhiyan, launched by Shree Shreepad Vader Swamiji, has already inspired the Math's devotees to chant 550 crore Ram Naam, a feat expected to be completed by April 17, 2024, marking the beginning of the 550th year celebrations. The event is expected to draw thousands of devotees from across India and abroad, making it an unprecedented spiritual gathering for the serene village of Partagali.

SC Stays Tree Cutting at Dabolim, Issues Notice on Goa Foundation Appeal

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: The Supreme Court on Tuesday put an immediate stop to tree felling at Dabolim while taking up an appeal by the Goa Foundation challenging a National Green Tribunal (NGT) order that had allowed a major residential development to proceed. A bench comprising Justices Manoj Misra and Ujjal Bhuyan directed that no trees be cut on Survey No. 43/1-A until the Court issues further instructions. Notices have been served to DLF Homes Goa Pvt Ltd and other respondents, who have six weeks to respond. The order came after



senior advocate Norma Alvares, appearing for the Goa Foundation, warned the Court that the land in question is forest by all expert accounts and is at risk of irreversible ecological loss if construction continues. The NGO has approached the Supreme Court against the NGT's June 11 ruling, which declared the plot to be non-forest land, effectively giving the developer the green light to proceed with its project.

Mungul Gang War: CJM Serves Charge Sheets; Case Adjourned to Dec 4

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Shubhada Dalvi on Wednesday served charge sheets to multiple accused in the high-profile Mungul gang war case. Fatorda Police submitted a detailed 624-page charge sheet naming Rashul Shaikh, Wilson Carvalho, Shahrukh Shaikh and several others for their alleged roles in the violent clash. During the proceedings, both State and defence representatives were



present. The court granted bail to one accused, while summons were issued to several others who remain to be formally served. The matter has now been adjourned to December 4 for further hearing. Officials indicated that the case may subsequently be transferred to the Sessions Court, given its gravity and the volume of charges.

Goa SIC Says Faculty Degrees Are Public Records, Orders Goa University to Disclose Documents

Team Goemkarponn

TALEIGAO: In a sharp rebuke to Goa University's stand that faculty qualifications constitute private information, the State Information Commission has ruled that academic certificates submitted during recruitment are public documents and must be disclosed under the RTI Act. Overturning the First Appellate Authority's decision, State Chief Information Commissioner Aravind Nair directed the University to provide the Degree, Master's and PhD certificates of Prof Shaila D'Souza within 10 days, stating that such records cannot be shielded by Section 8(1)(j) or labelled as "third party information." Nair noted that once educational certificates are handed over to a public authority



for the purpose of employment, they become part of official files and fall squarely within the public domain. "These documents are with Goa University, and they cannot be denied as someone's personal information," he observed, adding that public recruitment processes must remain open to scrutiny. The order stemmed from an appeal filed by Nazario Savio P. D'Souza of St Cruz, who had sought 30 pieces of information from the University's Administration (Teaching) section on

September 30, 2024. According to the appellant, the Public Information Officer responded selectively—marking 14 items as "Not Available," seven as "Third Party," three as "questions," and another under Section 8(1)(g) relating to confidentiality of the selection panel. The PIO maintained that several of the requested details were personal in nature and therefore exempt from disclosure. When the applicant challenged this before the First Appellate Authority, FAA Prof Jivan Parab directed corrections only for the "Not Available" responses but upheld the refusal on the grounds that the faculty member had not consented to the release of her certificates. Still unable to access the key documents, the appellant approached the State Information Commission on April 1, 2025.

GSSC Tells Departments to Submit One-Year Vacancy Lists Online by January 31, 2026

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Staff Selection Commission (GSSC) has instructed all government departments to submit their vacancy details for the upcoming year through the Commission's online system, with the deadline set for January 31, 2026. In an office memorandum,



Under Secretary Siddhesh Shetkar reminded departments that only "clear" vacancies—posts that are definitively vacant—should be reported. Anticipated or future vacancies are not to be included. Citing Clause 4(1) of the GSSC Regulations, the memorandum underscored the

mandatory annual requirement that appointing authorities disclose the total count of vacancies in subordinate services to the Commission by January 31 each year. The GSSC also clarified that posts earmarked for compassionate appointments or employment to dependents of freedom fighters must be subtracted before departments report their final vacancy numbers.

Nearly 3,000 Farmers Cleared for Compensation After Oct's Unseasonal Rainfall Damage

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Agriculture Department has cleared compensation claims for close to 3,000 farmers whose paddy crops were ravaged by the sudden, unseasonal showers that lashed the State in October soon after the monsoon retreated. The post-Diwali downpour flattened mature paddy ready for harvest, plunging cultivators into heavy financial losses across multiple talukas.



According to Agriculture Director Sandeep Foldessai, 2,997 farmers will receive a total of ₹2.53 crore under the Shetkari Adhar Nidhi scheme. Field assessments confirmed that 577 hectares of paddy were damaged, with Bardez emerging as

the worst-affected region. In Bardez alone, crops spread over 200 hectares, belonging to 930 farmers, were destroyed. Officials reported widespread rotting of grain due to waterlogging and major hurdles in harvesting the flattened crop.

Control Rooms Activated, Traffic Curbs Announced Ahead Of Partagal Math Celebrations

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Authorities in Canacona have activated dedicated control rooms and issued extensive traffic regulations ahead of the 550th year celebrations of Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevotham Math and the proposed visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister on November 28, 2025. The taluka, district and police control rooms will operate for real-time



monitoring, incident response and public assistance, with citizens advised to use emergency number 112 or contact the Canacona Taluka Control

Room (9272057863), District Control Room (0832-2794100) or Canacona Police Control Room (0832-2633357) for support during the event.

The Collector and District Magistrate (South Goa) has also notified temporary parking arrangements, no-parking zones, restrictions on the movement of heavy vehicles, zig-zag barricading, and specific road closures and diversions as part of a comprehensive traffic plan for the unveiling of the 77-foot bronze idol and the inauguration of 3D projection mapping at the Math.

Jharkhand Native Found Unconscious At Varca, Declared Brought Dead

Team Goemkarponn

COLVA: Colva Police are conducting an inquiry after a Year-old man was declared dead at the District Hospital, Margao, on Monday evening. At around 7:30 pm on 24 November 2025, police received a call from the hospital casualty informing that Birendra Soreng, aged 43 and a resident of Simdega, Jharkhand, had been brought in by a 108 ambulance from Varca. During enquiries with his family and friends, it was



revealed that Soreng was an alcoholic and was found lying along Varca Road before being shifted to the hospital. The doctor on duty declared him brought dead. The body has been preserved at South Goa District Hospital, Margao, for medic-legal procedures. Further investigation has been handed over to LPSI Raksha Naik of Colva Police Station.



Udupi Native Injured In Stabbing Following Heated Argument

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: An Udupi native was injured in a stabbing incident in Margao after a heated argument escalated into violence near Sahi Darbar Hotel. Margao Town Police registered Crime No. 104/2025 under Section 118(2) of the BNS 2023 based on a state complaint filed by ASI Santosh Gaonkar. Police said that around

7:30 pm on 24 November, the victim, Mohammed Ibrahim, was stabbed below the left side of his chest by an unidentified person during a quarrel. The assailant fled the spot immediately after the attack, leaving Ibrahim bleeding.

The investigation, now led by PSI Subhash Gaonkar, is underway to determine the motive behind the altercation and identify the attacker.

Man Accused Of Forging Late Father's Documents To Renew Food Safety Licence

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: An offence has been registered based on a complaint filed by Sushant Nagvenkar (54), resident of Fondevem, Ribandar. According to the complaint, the incident dates back to November

2017 at the Office of the Director of Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), Bambolim, where the accused, Pradeep Volvoikar, allegedly prepared and submitted

a forged and fabricated application to renew a Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 certificate in the name of his deceased father, Prabhakar V. Volvoikar.

The accused reportedly succeeded in getting the licence renewed using these fraudulent documents, thereby cheating the government authority. Police have registered an offence and further investigation is underway.

Man Collapses And Dies While Working At Partagal Math

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: A 34-year-old man collapsed and died in the early hours of Tuesday while working at Partagal Math, Poinguinim, Canacona. Canacona Police received a call from CHC Canacona at around 9:17 am on 25 November 2025, informing that a man had been brought dead to the casualty ward. During enquiry, police identified the deceased as Navina GE, aged



34, a resident of Canacona and originally from Karnataka. According to police, Navina was engaged in cloth design and flag-bunting work at Partagal Math at around 1:00 am, when he began feeling unwell.

He reportedly stepped away to drink water but collapsed and fell unconscious before he could reach the water point. He was immediately shifted to CHC Canacona by a 108 ambulance, where the doctor on duty declared him brought dead. The body has been preserved at South Goa District Hospital, Margao for medico-legal procedures. Further enquiry has been entrusted to PSI Ajit Velip of Canacona Police Station.

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Goa Police Crack Baina Dacoity

with iron and aluminium rods. His wife Harsha, their 12-year-old daughter and the elderly mother-in-law were also assaulted, tied up and threatened. The attack reportedly stopped only after Harsha pleaded with the robbers. Despite heavy bleeding, Sagar managed to call for help from his balcony. A neighbour, Bholenath Halwai, heard the cries and alerted police, who arrived around 3:25 am.

Another neighbour, Wasim Shaikh, took the injured man to Chicalim's Sub-District Hospital for initial treatment, after which he was shifted multiple times between there and GMC Bambolim due to fluctuating medical needs. Sagar's daughter suffered injuries while trying to protect him. The family remains deeply shaken. Though Sagar has been discharged from hospital, he has temporarily moved in with his brother, unable

to return to his own flat due to trauma and security concerns. The Nayak family has urged authorities to improve safety measures in residential buildings. The Baina heist is the third major armed robbery reported in Goa this year, following similar incidents at bungalows in Dona Paula and Mapusa. Police continue to search for the remaining accused as the investigation widens across multiple states.

Special court resumes bail hearing in Rama Kankonkar assault case; next hearing on Friday

Friday. The proceedings unfolded as Panaji Police sought additional time to verify Kankonkar's caste certificate, stating that the verification is necessary before they can complete the investigation. The

request has added a new dimension to a case that has already drawn widespread public attention. Cardozo, whom police describe as a repeat offender, is one of eight men arrested in connection with the assault.

He moved his bail plea on November 18, a day after the chargesheet was filed. Earlier, the court had placed him and two others in judicial custody, extending their remand by fourteen days on October 31.

Goa Govt Holds Back Comments on Tiger Reserve Proposal as CM, Min Rane Await Full CEC Report

recommendations for the proposed Goa Tiger Reserve, with both Chief Minister Pramod Sawant

and Forest Minister Vishwajit Rane declining to comment until they examine the full report.

Chief Minister Sawant clarified that the state has not yet received the committee's findings.

DITE&C Screens New Startup Proposals Under Seed Fund Grant Scheme

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Department of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (DITE&C), Government of Goa, held its 10th Expert Committee Meeting to evaluate fresh applications under the Startup Seed Fund Grant Scheme at its Conference Hall in Altinho-Panaji on November 25. Early-stage ventures from diverse sectors—including IT, AI/ML, healthcare, edtech, agritech, clean energy, fisheries, waste management, sports



innovation, personal finance, media solutions, and aerospace & defence—presented their proposals for seed capital support. The committee conducted a rigorous assessment, examining innovation value, technical feasibility, scalability and prototype readiness,

while several founders showcased solutions built and tested in Goa, underscoring growing confidence in the state's startup ecosystem. Many of the proposals targeted real-world challenges such as digital accessibility, food logistics, clean energy, fisheries management

and smart construction. The Seed Fund Grant Scheme, a key component of the Goa Startup Policy, offers one-time financial assistance of up to ₹10 lakh to startups that have developed a Minimum Viable Product (MVP), enabling them to refine and scale their solutions. With more founders choosing Goa as a base to develop and validate products, the state continues to bolster its innovation ecosystem through sustained funding support and entrepreneurship-focused initiatives.

FDA Conducts Extensive Inspection Drive in Mandrem and Arambol

■ 3 Establishments Ordered to Shut

Team Goemkarponn

ARAMBOL: The FDA team carried out an extensive inspection drive in Mandrem and Arambol, covering a total of 20 food establishments. Inspection notices were issued under Schedule 4 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, directing all inspected establishments to comply with mandatory hygiene and safety norms. During the drive, three establishments were ordered to immediately



cease operations due to unhygienic conditions. The remaining establishments were granted 14 days to comply with the required standards, failing which they will face legal action.

Goa Tourism Opens Pavilion at QTM 25, Showcasing State's Global Vision

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Tourism inaugurated its pavilion at the Qatar Travel Mart (QTM) 2025 on November 25, marking a significant step in strengthening the State's international tourism outreach. The pavilion was opened by Mr. Vipul, IFS, Indian Ambassador to Qatar, in the presence of Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte, Director of Tourism Kedar Naik, GTDC General



Manager (Marketing) Gavin Dias, and OSD to the Tourism Minister Shawn Mendes, along with other dignitaries. The event set the tone for Goa's strategic participation at one of the region's most influential tourism platforms.

Goa Tourism Concludes Successful Roadshow in Bahrain, Showcasing New Tourism Experiences and Strengthened Partnerships

Team Goemkarponn

BAHRAIN: Goa Tourism successfully concluded its Bahrain Roadshow on November 25 with a strong turnout from the travel trade, media representatives, airline partners, and the Goan diaspora. The event was graced by His Excellency Vinod K. Jacob, Ambassador of India to Bahrain, and attended by Tourism Minister



Rohan A. Khaunte, GTDC Managing Director Kuldeep Arolkar, GTDC Marketing Manager Harish Satlekar, and Director of Tourism Kedar Naik. The team showcased Goa's refreshed tourism positioning, highlighting

themes such as Nocto Tourism, Jet-Setting, and CalmCation under the newly launched Feels Like Goa campaign, which emphasizes the State's authenticity, emotion, and character. Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte

said Bahrain remains a strategic partner in Goa's tourism expansion across the GCC, noting that the strong turnout reflects deep interest in Goa's evolving tourism offerings. He highlighted that the State's new experiential themes are tailored to meet the expectations of modern global travellers and expressed confidence about welcoming more visitors from Bahrain in the upcoming season.

Yellow & Black Motorcycle, Rickshaw Stand Notified at Canacona KRC Station

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: In a move aimed at improving last-mile connectivity for rail passengers, the District Collector (South) has officially notified a dedicated Yellow & Black Motorcycle Taxi and Auto Rickshaw Stand at the Konkan Railway Corporation (KRC) Station at Nagarcem-Canacona. As per the notification issued in public interest, a 200 sq. m. area (10m x 10m) has been



designated as a public service vehicle stand. The space will accommodate three Yellow & Black motorcycle taxis and 17 Yellow & Black auto rickshaws, ensuring an organised system for passenger services at the KRCL Station. The Collector has also instructed the Executive Engineer, W.D. XXV (Roads), PWD Fatorda-Margao to install signboards, road markings, and other required infrastructure at the site.

Tawadkar Reacts to Isidore's Outburst Over Non-Completion of Works

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Minister for Tribal Welfare, Art & Culture, and Sports & Youth Affairs Ramesh Tawadkar has responded to former minister Isidore Fernandes' criticism regarding the non-completion of works initiated during Fernandes' tenure. Speaking at the inauguration of a water supply pipeline at Ave-Khotigao on Friday, Tawadkar indirectly addressed the allegations without naming Fernandes.

Tawadkar said certain individuals were



spreading "misleading information" and urged people not to pay attention to such claims. "Certain individuals come and spread unnecessary falsehoods; do not pay attention to them. Their dishonesty will be exposed by the people themselves. Today's youth are aware and sensible," he remarked.

Beautification, illumination works begin at Laxminarayan Temple

Team Goemkarponn

MORMUGAO: SIDCGL Chairman and Mormugao MLA Sankalp Amonkar on Tuesday morning launched the beautification and illumination works of the Laxminarayan Temple at Headland Sada, a long-pending demand of local residents. Councillor Shraddha Amonkar, temple committee members and locals were present for the commencement of the works taken up through the Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC). Speaking at the launch, Amonkar said



he had instructed the contractor to carry out the work on a war footing to ensure timely completion. He stressed that the Laxminarayan Temple holds deep historical and cultural significance for the people of Sada, being one of the oldest temples in the area and a place frequented not only by residents but also by devotees from across the taluka and Goa.

Shah Rukh Khan–Kajol's DDLJ Opens to Houseful Shows at IFFI



PictureTime's Inflatable Cinema Transforms Into a Stadium..



Goa: A wave of nostalgia swept through the Kala Academy campus on Tuesday evening as PictureTime's inflatable theatre erupted with cheers the moment Simran ran into Raj's arms. Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol's timeless classic Dilwale

Dulhania Le Jayenge made its first-ever mobile cinema debut at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), drawing a houseful audience and transforming the venue into a stadium-like celebration.

Picturetime Digiplex—known for bringing cutting edge inflatable cinemas across the country, and especially in underserved regions where theatres can't reach—has set up a state-of-the-

art theatre at the prestigious Kala Academy campus for the 2025 edition of IFFI in Goa. The Aditya Chopra-directed romance was among the festival's marquee screenings and drew an overwhelming response, with all 130 seats sold out well before showtime. Couples, families, schoolchildren and even on-ground security personnel packed the theatre, with many experiencing DDLJ on the big screen for the first time. Whistles, applause and shout-outs punctuated the screening as the audience relived some of Indian cinema's most beloved moments. "We anticipated strong interest, but witnessing the inflatable theatre turn into a stadium

was extraordinary," said Surajit Roy, COO & President, PictureTime. "The show went houseful within minutes. People of all ages were laughing, singing, and saying the dialogues in unison. This is exactly what PictureTime strives for, bringing the magic of the big screen to everyone, everywhere." Beyond DDLJ, PictureTime's inflatable theatre at IFFI also hosted

screenings of two more Shah Rukh Khan classics—Darr and Chak De! India—as well as a diverse slate including Vidhu Vinod Chopra's 12th Fail, the Malayalam blockbuster Manjummel Boys, Rajkumar Rao's Srikanth, Rani Mukerji's Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway, Sooraj Barjatya's Uunchai, Mira Nair's Salaam Bombay! and Irrfan Khan's Qissa among others.

Where the Jungle Holds Its Ground: 'Vanya' Unfolds a Love Beyond

Zindagi Laila Hai, Use Majnu Ki Tarah Pyaar Karo..."

The line hits the room like the opening dialogue of a classic Hindi drama—bold, poetic, and larger

than life. A famous saying by one of the 20th century's most celebrated Hindi writers, Padmabhusan Amritlal Nagar, a man who didn't just live life—he performed it, cherished it, and turned it into a constant celebration.

And at IFFI-2025 today, that celebration unfolded with two vivid stories, when the teams of 'Vanya' and 'Chowk University Ka

Vice Chancellor – Padmabhusan Amritlal Nagar came together for a vibrant, soul-stirring press conference that felt like two different worlds meeting on the same cinematic stage. On one side stood the emotionally charged, nature-soaked drama 'Vanya', with Director Badiger Devendra and actress Meghna Belawadi sharing their journey of capturing a man's unbreakable bond with the forest. On the other, Directors

Savita Sharma Nagar and Rajesh Amrohi breathed life into the legacy of Nagar Ji—a literary icon whose humour, humanism, and cultural depth shaped generations.

A Literary Legend Returns to Life on Screen

Directors Savita Sharma Nagar and Rajesh Amrohi spoke passionately about their documentary-style film on the revered writer Amritlal Nagar—an artist they described as "a celebration



in himself." Savita Sharma Nagar shared, "The film celebrates the endless joys of life, the way Nagar Ji lived—in the most nuanced, enchanting manner. His humour, his simplicity, his depth... everything deserved to be cherished on screen."

She revealed that the team spent five years researching and recreating moments from Nagar Ji's life. With very

few photographs available, they relied on memories, interviews, and literary archives and made seven drafts of the story. "We don't celebrate our writers enough. This film is our tribute to a legend," she asserted. Co-Director Rajesh Amrohi added, "Amritlal Nagar didn't write for entertainment alone. He documented cultural and social history of our country.

PM Urges Citizens to Strengthen Constitution as Rahul Gandhi Vows to Defend It

■ While Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on citizens to strengthen constitutional values, Opposition leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mamata Gandhi pledged to safeguard the Constitution.

New Delhi: Leaders cutting across party lines shared their thoughts on the Constitution and its values as the country celebrated Constitution Day today. November 26 is celebrated every year to mark the adoption of the Constitution in 1949. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on citizens to strengthen constitutional values, Opposition leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mamata Gandhi pledged to safeguard the Constitution. "On Constitution Day, we pay tribute to the framers of our Constitution. Their



vision and foresight continue to motivate us in our pursuit of building a Viksit Bharat. Our Constitution gives utmost importance to human dignity, equality and liberty. While it empowers us with rights, it also reminds us of our duties as citizens, which we should always



try to fulfil. These duties are the foundation of a strong democracy," the Prime Minister said in a post on X. "Let us reiterate our commitment to strengthening constitutional values through our actions," he said. "The Constitution is the shield of the poor and the oppressed,

their power and every citizen's voice. As long as the Constitution is safe, every citizen is safe, Gandhi said. "Let us pledge that we won't allow any attack on the Constitution. Protecting it is my duty, and I will stand in the way of every blow directed at it," the Congress leader said, extending his wishes on the Constitution Day. West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress leader Banerjee paid tribute to the visionaries who framed the Constitution, including its chief architect, BR Ambedkar.

President Murmu Launches First Kashmiri Edition of Constitution, Praises Article 370 Abrogation

■ 75th Constitution Day Marked with New Language Editions and Reflections on National Progress

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu led the 75th Constitution Day celebrations at Samvidhan Sadan on Wednesday, commemorating 76 years since India adopted its Constitution.

The event featured the launch of digital editions of the Constitution in nine additional Indian languages, including the first ever Kashmiri and Bodo versions.

Addressing the gathering in the historic Central Hall of the former Parliament building, the President said India is presenting a renewed model of development to the world.



She noted that the Constitution was framed to safeguard personal and democratic rights, and to encourage the country to move away from colonial mindsets toward a national outlook. Reflecting on the nation's progress, President Murmu highlighted several key policy decisions taken in recent years.



NIA Arrests Seventh Suspect in Delhi Blast Case

■ Investigation uncovers deeper support network behind Red Fort suicide bombing.

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency has made another breakthrough in the probe into the November 10 suicide car blast near the Red Fort in Delhi, arresting a seventh accused connected to the attack. The incident claimed several lives and left many injured, prompting a nationwide investigation into the network behind the bombing. The latest arrest is that of Soyab, a resident of Dhauj in Faridabad, who investigators believe played a crucial role in providing shelter and logistical support to the main bomber, Umar Un

Nabi, shortly before the attack. His detention has helped the agency piece together additional details about the group's movements and the mechanisms used to prepare the explosive device. NIA teams visited Soyab's residence as part of a reconstruction exercise, accompanied by previously arrested accused Dr Muzammil Shakeel Ganai. During the inspection, officers identified a grinder and a portable furnace allegedly stored by Muzammil at the location. These items are suspected to have been used in crafting parts of the improvised explosive device.

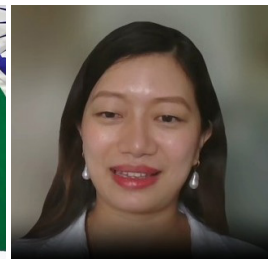
India Rejects China's Claim After Arunachal Woman Detained in Shanghai

■ New Delhi Condemns Violation of Aviation Norms and Reaffirms Sovereignty

New Delhi: India issued a firm diplomatic response after an Indian woman from Arunachal Pradesh was detained for more than 18 hours at Shanghai's Pudong International Airport. The traveller, who was on a valid Indian passport and in lawful transit, was denied routine procedures, triggering a strong protest from New Delhi. The incident intensified when the



Chinese Foreign Ministry released a statement challenging India's sovereignty over Arunachal Pradesh. In response, the Ministry of External Affairs dismissed the remarks and criticised



the treatment of the passenger, calling it a breach of international norms.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated India's position that Arunachal Pradesh

remains an integral and inalienable part of the country. He stated that no assertions from China can alter this fact and confirmed that India had lodged formal protests in both New Delhi and Beijing. The Ministry highlighted that the episode violated established aviation conventions, including the Chicago and Montreal frameworks that govern global air travel.

28 Maoists Surrender in Chhattisgarh, Many Carrying High Bounty

■ Cadres cite development and rehabilitation initiatives as key reasons for joining the mainstream

New Delhi: Twenty-eight Maoists, including 19 women, surrendered in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh, marking another significant step in the ongoing efforts to reduce extremist activity in the Bastar region. Officials confirmed that 22 of them

carried a combined bounty of Rs 89 lakh. The group surrendered before senior police officers, stating that they were influenced by the state government's Niyad Nellanar scheme, which focuses on accelerating development in remote areas, and

by the new surrender and rehabilitation policy. They also acknowledged the impact of Poona Margham, a rehabilitation initiative by the Bastar police aimed at social reintegration.

Among those who laid down arms were four



hardcore cadres: Pandi Dhruv alias Dinesh, a Divisional Committee member, along with Dule Mandavi alias Munni, Chhattis Poyam and Padni Oyam, all associated with the military company number 6 of the East Bastar division.

India Collapse to Biggest-Ever Test Defeat as South Africa Sweep Series

■ Visitors Hand India Their Heaviest Loss in Test Cricket at Guwahati.

New Delhi: South Africa completed a commanding 2-0 series victory after crushing India by 408 runs on the final day of the second Test in Guwahati. The result marked India's largest defeat in terms of runs in Test cricket and made South Africa the first team to secure more than one Test series whitewash on Indian soil. Chasing an improbable target of 549, India's batting lineup crumbled under sustained pressure and were dismissed for 140. Ravindra Jadeja offered the only resistance with a fighting 54, but wickets



continued to fall around him as the hosts failed to build any meaningful partnerships. The visitors dominated the contest from the opening day, maintaining control with disciplined bowling and clinical batting. Their bowlers exploited the conditions expertly on the final morning, sealing the match and the series

with a performance that highlighted their superiority throughout the tour.

For India, the defeat capped a disappointing campaign marked by inconsistent batting and missed opportunities. Despite glimpses of resistance in phases, the team failed to challenge South Africa's momentum

at crucial moments. The emphatic win not only gave South Africa a memorable clean sweep but also underscored their growing strength in subcontinental conditions. With this triumph, they etched their name in the record books while India were left to reassess after the heaviest run-margin loss in their Test history.

Gautam Gambhir: 'Team Comes Before Me' After South Africa Test Whitewash

■ Coach Accepts Responsibility After South Africa Whitewash, Emphasises Team Improvement.

New Delhi: India's head coach Gautam Gambhir faced questions about his future following a crushing 408-run defeat to South Africa in the second Test at Guwahati, which completed a 2-0 series whitewash for the visitors. Speaking at the post-match press conference on November 26, Gambhir emphasised that the Indian cricket team and its results are more important than



his personal role. Asked whether he considered himself the right fit as India's Test coach, Gambhir said it was for the BCCI to decide his future.

Goa Outplayed as Bengal Clinch Dominant 9-Wicket Win

■ Sujata Dey's blistering knock powers Bengal to a swift chase

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa endured a tough outing in the U-23 Women's T20 Elite Cricket Tournament after falling to a commanding nine-wicket loss against Bengal at the Lady Amritbai Daga College Ground in Nagpur on Tuesday. Batting first after winning the toss, Goa struggled to build momentum and posted 100 for 7 in their 20 overs. Harshita Yadav provided stability at the top with a composed 44 off 52 deliveries

that included seven boundaries. She found brief support from Tanisha Gaikwad, who added 20, and Athashree Shivarkar, who chipped in with 15. Despite their efforts, the team found it difficult to accelerate against a disciplined Bengal attack. Bengal kept the scoring rate in check through consistent bowling. Sushmita Ganguly and Prativa Mandi made key breakthroughs with two wickets each, restricting Goa's progress during the middle overs.

Goa Seal Second Straight Innings Victory to Strengthen Position in Elite Group D

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa delivered another commanding performance in the Cooch Behar Elite Cricket Tournament as they defeated Assam by an innings at the Bandodkar Ground of the Panaji Gymkhana. The match concluded within two and a half days, reflecting Goa's dominance in all departments. After posting an imposing first-innings total of 376, Goa took full control of the contest. Assam struggled to cope with the disciplined bowling attack and were dismissed



for 75 in 35 overs. With a substantial lead in hand, Goa enforced the follow-on, and Assam once again faltered, managing only 86 in their second innings. The win earned Goa 7 points, which included a bonus point for their comprehensive margin. Assam resumed Day 2 at 48 for 4 but added just 27 runs before their innings ended Goa's

bowlers maintained a relentless pressure. Mihir Kudalkar was exceptional, producing a remarkable spell of 3 wickets without conceding a single run in 3.2 overs. Samarth Rane claimed 3 for 33, while Chigurupati Venkata and YashKasvankar contributed with two wickets each, ensuring Assam never recovered. The second innings brought little

change for the visitors. Although captain Dipankar Paul remained unbeaten on 20, he received no meaningful support from the other batters. Kudalkar continued his outstanding form, finishing with figures of 4 for 9, while Kasvankar, Shiven Borkar, and Rane added crucial breakthroughs to complete another clinical effort. With this result, Goa

Anaya, Aarna, Ruhaan and Vedant Advance to Semi-Finals at State TT Tournament

■ Strong performances mark an action-packed day at Fatorda

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Late Manohar Sawkar Goa State Table Tennis Tournament 2025 witnessed a lively day of competition at the Multipurpose Stadium in Fatorda, with top youngsters securing their places in the semi-finals across the Girls U11 and Boys U13 categories.

In the Girls U11 quarterfinals, top seed Anaya Shukla delivered a confident display, easing past Radha Dessai 3-0 to book her spot in the last four. Aarna Walavalkar followed with an impressive 3-1 win over fourth seed Tvisha Kotkar, showing excellent control in the key moments. Sanaz Siham Shaikh fought back after dropping the first game to



defeat Claire Ann George 3-1, while second seed Shaurya Dessai completed the semifinal lineup with a composed 3-1 victory against seventh seed Tasha Mascarenhas.

The Boys U13 quarterfinals featured equally commanding performances. Top seed Ruhaan Shaikh maintained sharp form as he powered past Ashank Dalvi 3-0.

GCA Announces Cash Prizes After Consecutive Innings Wins in Cooch Behar Trophy

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Cricket Association has declared special cash rewards for the state's U 19 side and their support staff following a dominant innings victory over Assam in the Cooch Behar Elite Cricket Tournament. The announcement comes as Goa registered back to back innings wins,

marking one of their strongest starts in recent seasons. GCA President Mahesh Dessai and the Managing Committee confirmed a cash prize of ₹1 lakh for Yash Kasvankar, whose remarkable 243 in the tournament opener against Chhattisgarh set the foundation for Goa's first win and provided early momentum for the team's campaign.